

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel non-elected Claims 9-19, 24, 29; and 31-68 without prejudice. Please amend Claims 1-3, 6-8, 20-23, 25-28. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

- A2
1. (Currently amended) A custom made battery for use in a hearing aid insertable into an ear canal, the battery being shaped to substantially conform to a longitudinal portion of the ear canal between ~~the~~ an aperture and ~~the~~ a first bend of the ear canal.
 2. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the battery is ~~tapered~~ generally cylindrical in shape having an outer diameter dimension which varies from D1 to D2 in a longitudinal direction along its length dimension L and wherein L is less than D1 or D2 and the battery fits in a housing in the hearing aid such that the diameter dimension extends traverse the ear canal.
 3. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the battery includes at least one step going from D1 to D2.
 4. (Original) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the hearing aid is disposable.
 5. (Original) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the hearing aid is nondisposable.
 6. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the battery ~~includes~~ has an elliptical diametric cross-sectional shape.
 7. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the battery is comprised of metal or plastic.

8. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein the ~~battery is plastic~~ outside diameter dimension of the battery increases abruptly from a distal end of the hearing aid to a proximal end.

Claims 9-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for forming a custom made battery for use in a hearing aid insertable into an ear canal, comprising shaping the battery to substantially conform to a portion of the ear canal between ~~the~~ an aperture of the ear canal and ~~the~~ a first bend of the ear canal .

21. (Currently amended) A battery for use in a hearing aid, comprising:

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a plastic housing partially surrounding a metal shell of generally cylindrical shape and having a circular dimension of diameter D and a large length dimension L wherein the ratio L/D is sufficiently large to enable a quantity of electrolyte in the shell which will last for at least 30 days continuous operation of the battery, the metal shell being expandable and containing zinc and electrolyte; and

a plastic cathode plate sealing one end of the metal shell; ~~and~~
~~a cathode grid proximate the plastic cathode plate.~~

22. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 21, further comprising ~~at least one cathode electrode and~~ at least one anode electrode disposed in opposite the cathode plate.

23. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 21, wherein the battery is attached to a hearing aid which is insertable into an ear canal of a user and the plastic housing is shaped to substantially conform to a portion of the ear canal between ~~the~~ an aperture and ~~the~~ a first bend of the ear canal.

24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 23, wherein the ~~plastic housing~~ metal shell includes at least one step in the dimension D wherein $D1 > D2$.
26. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 21, wherein the ~~hearing aid~~ battery is disposable.
27. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 21, wherein the ~~hearing aid~~ battery is nondisposable and rechargeable.
- Ar 28. (Currently amended) The battery of Claim 21, wherein the plastic housing ~~includes~~ has an elliptical cross-section.
29. (Canceled)
30. (Original) A battery for use in a hearing aid, comprising:
a plastic housing containing zinc and electrolyte;
a plastic cathode plate sealing one end of the plastic housing to contain the zinc and electrolyte in the plastic housing; and
a cathode grid proximate the plastic cathode plate.

Claims 31-68 (Canceled)
